

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063335  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
/043 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA:ADBOWEN:YT  
APPROVED BY ARA:JBUSHNELL  
HA:FSIEVERTS

-----082866 121116Z /13

R 110338Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USINT HAVANA  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063335

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CU, SHUM, SREF

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMENTS ON ITS RELATIONS  
WITH CUBA

1. ON MARCH 8 THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC), ALEXANDRE HAY, MET WITH  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL. THE PORTION OF THEIR  
CONVERSATION DEALING WITH CUBA WAS AS FOLLOWS:

2. AFTER SIXTEEN YEARS OF PRACTICALLY NO CONTACT, ICRC NOW  
SEES HOPE OF REESTABLISHING A FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH  
THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT. THIS HOPE IS BASED ON THESE SMALL  
SIGNS: (A) CUBAN PERSONNEL ARE NOW RECEIVING TRAINING  
BY ICRC, (B) ICRC IS REGULARLY VISITING THREE CUBAN  
PRISONERS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IS TRANSMITTING REPORTS ON  
THE, SAME TO HAVANA BOTH VIA ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT AND VIA  
ICRC HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA, AND (C) LAST YEAR ICRC  
REPRESENTATIVE WAS UNABLE TO DISCUSS INTERNAL MATTERS WITH  
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CUBAN OFFICIALS IN HAVANA BUT TWO WEEKS AGO ICRC RE-  
PRESENTATIVE ON ANOTHER VISIT FOUND THIS WAS NO LONGER  
THE CASE. HAY ADDED ICRC MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO RENDER  
ASSISTANCE TO CUBAN CASUALTIES AND PRISONERS IN THE HORN  
OF AFRICA, AND THIS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER COOPERATION.

3. ICRC HAS STRONG INTEREST IN TRYING TO VISIT PRISONERS

IN CUBA, HAY CONTINUED. AN ADDED REASON FOR WANTING TO DO SO IS THAT ICRC IS OFTEN ACCUSED OF BEING LEFTIST OR COMMUNIST AS A RESULT OF BEING ABLE TO VISIT PRISONERS OF RIGHTIST REGIMES MORE THAN THOSE OF LEFTIST GOVERNMENTS.

4. BUSHNELL RAISED POSSIBILITY OF ICRC UNDERTAKING VISITS AND EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF OTHER NON-CUBAN PRISONERS IN ADDITION TO AMERICANS, SUCH AS HAITIANS, DOMINICANS, AND JAMAICANS. HAY WAS UNAWARE OF THESE PRISONERS BUT AGREED TO EXPLORE MATTER. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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